

Talking Points
Toyota Auto Body to Locate in Baldwyn
Tuesday, September 25, 2007
Tupelo, Mississippi

- A \$200 million investment, facility to create 400 new jobs

It was great news when we announced in July that one of the primary suppliers to Toyota's new Blue Springs plant would also make Mississippi the home of its newest manufacturing facility – the company's first in the U.S.

At that time, Toyota Auto Body was still looking for the perfect site to build a facility to serve Toyota's Highlander SUV plant.

Today I can tell you the company didn't have to look very far.

I am very pleased to announce Toyota Auto Body through its newly named Auto Parts Manufacturing Mississippi, Inc., will build a \$200 million plant just up the road from here in Baldwyn.

The plant is expected to open in 2010, employing 400 people who will provide stamped parts, body weld parts and plastic parts to the Toyota plant.

Toyota Auto Body's decision to locate its first U.S. facility in Baldwin is a testament to our workforce and our proven economic development strategy of encouraging cooperation between state, regional, and private entities.

We look forward to a long, fruitful relationship with our newest corporate citizen and share the excitement generated by the creation of 400 new jobs that will enhance the economy of North Mississippi and the state as a whole.

In February, Toyota announced that it would invest \$1.3 billion in its eighth North American manufacturing facility in Blue Springs. 2,000 direct jobs will be created once the plant is operational and

another 4,900 spin-off, or indirect jobs are expected to be created within five years of the plant's opening.

Auto Parts Manufacturing Mississippi, Inc., will begin production to coincide with the start-up of Toyota's new Highlander plant.

I am very pleased this outstanding company will find a new home in North Mississippi as a major supplier to Toyota's newest auto assembly plant.

This is the kind of action I mean when I talk about moving Mississippi forward.

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